45% and 60% to 20% and 40% respectively by the end of the VIIIth Plan.

(iii) Achievement of minimum leave of learning by approximately all children at the primary levels.

(iv) Imparting of functional literacy to all adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group by launching Total Literacy Campaigns in all parts of the country.

(v) Implementing comprehensive programmes for post literacy and Continuing Education in all areas/ districts covered by the Total Literacy Campaigns.

(vi) Adoption of strategies to improve planning mechanism, including the following:

(a) District-wise planning based on special local needs of districts classified as (i) High Literacy Districts, (ii) Total Literacy Campaign Districts, and (iii) Low Literacy Districts; and

(b) Micro-planning for family-wise and child wise design of action through community participation.

Ashram Pathshalas

*578. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposal to open Ashram Pathshalas in the backward regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Government have received requests in this regard from the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Central Government has no such propose under consideration.

(b) to (d). Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Railway Schools

*581. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for opening railway schools;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more such schools Keeping in view the number of children of railway employees and their requirement;

(c) if so, the details of railway schools proposed to be opened zone-wise along with the locations thereof;

(d) whether there is also any scheme to upgrade the exusting railway schools;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Provision of Education of facilities is the responsibility of State Governments/Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Railways have set up a few schools within the limited re-

sources and purely as a Staff welfare measure.

(b) No, Sir. However, assistance of other agencies in the field of education is being sought from time to time to meet the requirements of Railway employees.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f). Upgradation of the existing Railway schools upto the level of High Schools/Higher Secondary School is considered on merits, subject to availability of funds of meet the recurring and non-recurring expenditure.

[*English*]

Universal Elementary Education

*582. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI HARPAL PANWAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the revised target for attaining the goal of 'universal elementary education' in the country;

(b) the progress made during the last three years in this regard and how does it compare with the target fixed;

(c) the present number of non-school going children below the age of 6 years and those between 6 to 14 years respectively, State-wise;

(d) the percentage of such children likely to be covered by the programme this year;

(e) whether the Government have made any time-bound programme in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The National Policy on Education 1986 had envisaged that all children of about 11 years of age will receive primary education by 1990 and free and compulsory education will be provided to all children upto 14 years of age by 1995. The Central Advisory Board on Education Committee on Policy headed by Shri Janardhan Reddy, after reviewing the position, has advised that (a) targets for universalisation of elementary education need to be revised; and (b) every effort should be made to ensure that the constitutional obligation of providing free and compulsory education upto 14 years is achieved by the end of this century. It is proposed to place the report of the Committee before CABE for consideration.

(b) and (c). The gross enrolment ratios (includes under-age and over-age children) in classes I-V and VI-VIII in the last three years were as follows:–

	1988-89	*1989-90*	*1990-91*
Classes I-V (6-11 years)	99.56	99.96	101.03
Classes VI-VIII (11-14 years)	56.95	59.15	60.11